

purposes, to a Company which had ever been, from first to last, the determined opponent of colonization, and that, too, at a time when the gravest charges, relative to the management of the territories it already possessed, were pending against it, was a most heinous abuse of power,—a most flagitious neglect of public duty on the part of the government which sanctioned it,—so heinous and so flagitious that the minister who brought it about, supposing him to have acted from private or personal motives, or to oblige importunate friends, not in mere stolid ignorance of where and what Vancouver's Island was, and who the parties were that pretended to want it for colonization only, deserved impeachment for his share in the transaction. At all events, the Company has not the shadow of a claim for compensation beyond that specified in the thriftless deed of gift, on the relinquishment of its booty; and the grant ought to be at once recalled.

Public justice,—the commercial and manufacturing interests of the country,—the pressing need of suitable locations for emigrants,—the contentment of our North American colonies,—the well-being of British settlers in the Company's dominions,—the improvement and civilization of the native races, nay their very existence;—all considerations of policy and humanity combine in demanding the abolition of this hideous monopoly at the earliest possible period. Will it be abolished? Not if some of the members of the Government have their way;—not unless the House of Commons, which is but too much at the beck of the Government, is urged and kept to its duty;—not if the public generally remain as strangely apathetic as they have hitherto been to questions so vitally affecting the greatness and prosperity of our colonial empire, that it is almost impossible to exaggerate their importance.

It is supposed that the inquiry now proceeding before the House of Commons will be concluded in the present session, and that next year Government will be prepared with a measure founded on the report of the Committee. The nature of that measure will depend much more upon the public out of doors, than upon either the report of the committee, or the House of Commons. Let it be remembered that evidence most condemnatory of the Company and